

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, July 9. 1709.

I Presume, my last would in part clear up a Point that has been pretty much debated among us, and which sometimes gives our People Uneasiness enough, *Viz.* That the encreasing the Numbers of our People shall lower the Price of our Wages; the contrary of which I affirm—I shall say but a little more to it—And hope to put it out of Question.

I readily grant, if you were to bring over a hundred Thousand Butchers or Shoemakers—They would be ready to butcher one another for Work, and the Shoemakers would ruin those we have already, and themselves; *the Reason is plain*, because they would multiply that particular Occupation, more than they would encrease the

Employ, by just so much as these hundred Thousand could kill, and dress more Flesh than they could eat; or make more Shoes than they could wear.

Again, if a hundred Thousand People were to come over here, and plant upon Land, and every one to do their own Work—They would not have Employment enough for themselves, and would want to be employ'd in the Service of those that were here before them—And by Consequence would want to do some Work, that some other Body did before; and this is what we call by that ill-natur'd Phrase, of *Eating the Bread out of the Mouths of our Poor.*

Again,

Again, barely planting a Number of People upon our Land, who should produce the Provisions they eat, and manufacture the Clothes and Household-Stuff they wore; if that were probable, would not perhaps answer, all that is alledg'd of encreasing Wealth to a Nation—Nor would a Colony so consider'd, make good what I have said, of Numbers of People making more Employment than they could perform, and so by Consequence assist to the Employment of others—— There is no doubt, but a hundred Thousand People planted in any Country might subsist themselves, and do all the necessary Works they should want, without employing any Body.

But when we talk of People, and planting them in a Nation, we are to consider this Nation as concern'd in Trade; Trade, which is now the Consequence of peopling a Country; and this Trade is to be consider'd in its full Circulation, by which it employs perhaps ten times the Hands, which the same Things produc'd in another Manner would employ, and which Circulation is the Life of general Commerce—— 'Tis for Want of this Distinction, that most of our vulgar Errors about Trade are miswisd in to the World. *For Example.*

I wear a Suit of Clothes—They are made of Cloth, lin'd with Shalloon, stich'd with Silk, the Buttons are of one Work, the Button-holes of another; the Pockets are of Leather, the Waistcoat is lin'd with Flannel, the Breeches with Dimmety, and the like.

I will make it appear, that from the first Principles of the Clothes to my wearing them, 100 Families have a Part of their Subsistence out of this one Suit of Clothes: As the Things are handed on in the Course Trade, and as they circulate from one Place to another—— The Farmer bred the Sheep, part in *Leicestershire*, part in *Lincolnshire*, part in *Kent*, part in *Wiltshire*, &c. where the Wool being shorn, he sold it to the Staplers, who carry'd it to *London*, or to *Sturbridge-Fair*, or to *Gloucestershire*, for Sale; of him, the Clothier bought it, that made the Cloth, and a Multitude of Hands it runs thro' there too; the Shalloon-maker dwelt in *Northamptonshire*, perhaps at *Kettering*, he bought his Wool at *London*,

had it spun in *Bedfordshire*, dy'd it at *Coventry*, wove it at *Kettering*, and it was sold three times after it was made, before I bought it for the Taylor—— Thus again, the COTTON, that occasion'd Manufactures here to be ship'd to *Jamaica*, from whence it comes; then Ships to carry them; Factors there, who exchange'd them for it; Ships to bring it home; Merchants to do all this; Factors to buy it; Carriers to carry it 150 Miles from *London* to *Manchester*; there it runs thro' ten or twelve Operations, and being converted into Fastians, comes back again to *London*, to line Waistcoats, Breeches, Pockets, and such Trifles—— And thus of all the rest.

Now, it is true, that all these Things may be done in every little Village in *England*—And a worthy Member of Parliament, by Name Sir H—— M——, did us once the Favour to propose for the settling and employing our poor People, that every Parish should thus manufacture for themselves—— A Project, saving our Respect to the Author, as fatal to the Being of *England* in Trade, as a Plague would be to the Encrease of our People—— For this would be nothing but reducing us to our primitive State, and making every Village be a Colony within it self, independent of all about it—— In this Case, five Farmers, and one of every general Occupation, shall feed and cloth the whole Parish; and where is the Thing you call Trade, when this is done? —— You would by this Method leave two Millions of the People we already have, without Employment.

The very carrying, driving, and re-carrying our Goods from one Part of the Nation to another, employs in *England* an incredible Number of People and Horses— The Circulation of Trade in *England* is the Life and Being of all our Home Trade— By this Means one Man employ a Thousand— And all the Thousand employs him—— And the Wealth that rolls from hand to hand, insensibly growing as it goes, is inexpressible.

There's not a Suit of Clothes on your Back, and a Dinner you eat—But has employ'd some Body or other, or some Part of the Land in every Country in *England*——

This

This is the Event of the Manufactures being extended and spread over every Part of the Nation, and the farther they are spread, the better; and of the Tradesmen living in populous Cities, from whence by Correspondence Trade is made to circulate round the Nation, as the Blood in the Body — The Roads are the Arteries that convey, and the Manufactures, Provisions, and Produce of the whole, flow thro' them, to the general Supply of every Part.

This is the Foundation of our Argument — This proves, that a Number of People planted any where in *England*, where they may improve Land that was not improv'd before, shall be necessarily our Advantage; since every Thing they want, but bare Meat and Drink, nay, and the very Produce of the Land they cultivate, circulates thro' so many Hands, and affects so many Branches of Trade, that a Hundred of the poorest of these *Palatines*, after being put in a Posture but to eat their own Bread, shall assist in employing a hundred Thousand other People.

I cannot but reflect with some Astonishment, on the Prepossession of our People here, that will not apprehend the Advantages of peopling this Nation, for Fear of wanting Work; when 'tis so evident, that by the Circulation of Trade, every single Person in this Nation makes ten times more Work than he can do — And all this is owing to the several Branches of Manufacture, the several little Fountains from whence Supplies of Provisions come, and from whence every Part of *Britain* helps and assists one another, corresponds and barter with one another for what they want, just as the distinct Nations of the World do in the more general Commerce.

Norwich sends Stuffs to *London*, and buys there all her other Manufactures; as Cloth from *Leeds*, Stockings from *Yorkshire*, Serges from *Exeter*, finer Cloth from *Wiltshire*, Cotton Ware from *Manchester*, Flannels from *Wales*, and the like, all by Way of *London* — All these Places again being employ'd in their other respective Manufactures, which universally go to *London*, buy their Stuffs there from *Norwich*.

And for this Reason, I say, if *Norwich* trades with *Exeter*, if *Exeter* trades with *Leeds*, if *Leeds* trades with *Canterbury* directly, and not by *London*, a Model too much praesid'd, it is an Invasion made upon the Circulation, and a lessening our Trade; because the Manufacture passes thro' the fewer Hands, and the rest are left destitute of Employment.

From all this it is evident, that Numbers of People must encrease Trade, because the Circulation is the greater, which is of it self the Being of that Trade — Encrease of Trade, all Men will allow, is an Encrease of Employment for the Poor; Encrease of Employment to the Poor must be a raising of Wages, rather than lowering it — Where then is the Grievance of these poor People coming hither, and what do we complain of? Indeed nothing that I know of, but according to our old Custom, of railing at our Benefactors, and despising our Blessings.

Let any Man go but into *Scotland*, and he may see, and I hope, that wise People will both see and redress it — What is the Reason of their Want of a Home-Trade there? — But because the poor People make their own Cothes, card, spin, and weave their own Wool in every Village; and the Circulation of Trade is anticipated, the Wool grows, is wrought and worn in the same Place, perhaps in the very same Town. But if ever the poor People there are encourag'd in their own Manufactures, as I hope they will, and we are distracted if they are not; when they come to have Work from others, and good Wages, they will stick to that Work, and buy their own Clothes in other Places; then the several Shires and Burghs will fall into their several Works; the Wool, the Flax, the Yarn, the Cloth will pass and re-pass from place to place, and the same Number of People cloth'd, but in the same Manner, and with the same Expence, shall yet employ twice the Hands in the Work, and the Trade shall encrease it self by its Circulation.

It might be a farther Explication of this, to examine, from whence it comes to pass, that we send so much of our Produce abroad,

abroad, and of the Labour of our People—Those that work on the Goods exported, do not work on the Home-Consumption—They must necessarily then have others at home at Work for them: When *Scotland* shall by improving her Linen, as she may well do, employ her People, so as to take off the Commons from making their own Woollen; those Woolens must be made then by some who are not employ'd in those Linens; these, when made, must be bought, barter'd, carry'd and fetch'd; and all this makes Trade.

I speak this, respecting the present State of *Scotland*—As I would be daily opening your Eyes to the Advantages you may reap by employing the Poor in *Scotland*, and encouraging Trade there—Which is your Debt to the *Scots* by Promise, and to your selves by Interest; of which hereafter.

But to return to the poor *Palatines*, who we so regret among us—I should have said something to the Notice publish'd in the *Gazette*, for receiving Proposals for employing and settling them; I have not Room for it here, but shall hint one Word—If those Proposals are to employ them in something new, in which no Body was employ'd before—It shall without doubt answer all the happy Ends of enriching us—But if otherwise—I shall fear, they begin at the wrong End of their Work—The first, I am satisfy'd, is feasible; the last needless.

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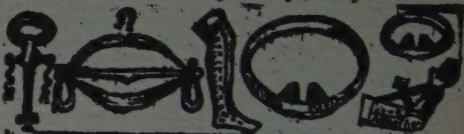
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